THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 16-17 | Oncilla

phoenixdragon1690

{Mods, please let this through}

Heyo! Welcome back to the TDP reread, y'all! This week, in chapters sixteen and seventeen, Clay, Peril, and Scarlet talk backstory and arena. Sorry if this is incoherent, I'm somewhat sleep-deprived at the moment.

This reread may contain SPOILERS for any and all Wings of Fire books. If you have not finished the series, read ahead at your own peril.

SUMMARY
Chapter 16: Sometime during the night after Horizon's arena fight, Peril shows up at Clay's prison tower with some food, promising to stay really still and offering to leave if he wants. To her surprise, he asks her to stay and talk. They discuss the fight earlier that day, Peril's backstory (or the lies Scarlet told her, anyway), and their natures (born killers, Peril thinks; Clay hopes not). Clay asks if she can talk to Scarlet about keeping Starflight out of the arena, and Peril mentions that the queen doesn't want her talking to Clay, but promises to try. She flies off, leaving Clay wondering if killing really is in his nature.

Chapter 17: The next morning, some guards show up and lead Clay into the palace. Clay stares around at the main hall in wonder, and then notices Kestrel, trapped in an oubliette at the bottom of the hall. He doesn't get long to think on this, though, because then the guards bring him into the throne room. Glory and Starflight are already there; they wait, forced to bow before the queen until Tsunami arrives. They debate with the queen about whether the war is necessary; she announces her intent to give Sunny to Burn, and then she asks them who's most likely to survive the arena. Clay and Tsunami each volunteer as tribute, and Scarlet decides on Clay….

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
"Her Majesty said I might as well follow my true nature," Peril said. "That's how she raised me--letting me be myself, giving me dragons to kill. Maybe you'd feel better if you could be who you really are."
"I hope that's not who I am," Clay said. … "I mean--maybe I was born that way, but does that mean I'm like that forever? I guess I hope I have a choice, is all. I want to be who I want to be, not who I have to be. Right? Do you ever--I mean, wouldn't you want to be different, if you could be anyone?"

THE DRAGONETS
Heck, Peril's a PoV, she can go here. (Maybe I should just make a general-purpose "characters" section….) How different our little champion has become since these chapters, with her insistence that she's happy the way she is and that she doesn't want to change. Character development FTW!

"But if fighting was all she was good for, why hadn't the queen sent Peril out into the war? Why was she kept here for gladiator fights instead?
"Perhaps Queen Scarlet didn't completely trust the hold she had on Peril. If she were let loose into the world, Peril might realize she didn't have to be a killer...or she might decide to kill anyone she liked, without waiting for the queen's permission."

Clay is doing his talking-when-nervous thing again.

"No way was he going to watch while Tsunami got slaughtered. Especially since the others would need her

much more than him to have any chance of escaping this place."

Aww, Clay, that's kind of simutaneously sweet and depressing. Also totally wrong--the others need you just as much as Tsunami.

WORLDBUILDING
Awesome dragon palace! Is there any fanart of the main hall or the throne room? I ought to draw some….

BIOLOGY AND CULTURE
PERIL:
"...Clay could clearly feel the burning heat coming off her scales. It wasn't a warm, basking heat like Sunny and Dune had. It felt like standing too close to an erupting volcano."

"I was born with too much fire. Usually when dragons like me hatch, the SkyWings drop them off the highest mountain peak."

"She coughed, and a small ring of smoke puffed out of her snout."

EVERYONE ELSE:
" *Poor Starflight.* Clay wondered if a normal NightWing, raised around other NightWings, would already have his powers by now."

BODY LANGUAGE + NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION
Kestrel roaring.

"Her tail twitched over her talons as she thought."

"...the queen said, clapping her wings together."

CULTURAL BIASES
Mostly Scarlet this week:

"RainWings are naturally lazy creatures. Hadn't you noticed? But then, MudWings aren't known for their brains."

"Well, it's easy to say war is awful. But ut's a lot harder to solve these problems without having a war. Especially when you're talking about dragons. Fighting comes naturally to us. You should know--you attacked me when you barely even knew me."

The SkyWings are probably grumpy because of stress--they're in the middle of a war, and Scarlet's not exactly a safe queen to live under….

DRAGONSPEAK
Blazing, yo!

DIFFERENCES WITH LATER BOOKS
"And it's a terrific distraction for those dragons who otherwise would have challenged me for the throne. No one's even tried in about eight or nine years."

I'd double-check this against Escaping Peril, but that requires standing up to get the book and I'm too lazy. ¯_(ツ)_/¯

COMMENTARY
"Since the guards were already dragging him toward it, it seemed a little pointless to break free and then run exactly where they were going anyway." Snrk.

As always, if anyone can do the annotations that would be much appreciated! See you next week, when Clay enters the arena and we get our first glimpse of both IceWing frostbreath and RainWing venom!

Previous reread: /321846 Index: /317770

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Such is the path of a dreamer: I find my way by moonlight.

~Oncilla~

Queen of Non Sequitur, Bookwyrms, Pangolins, and Bones

Trash Squad, Werewolf, GASTER FOLLOWER

Writer, roleplayer, nerd

WoFMBer Dec. 2014-Mar. 2019

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cleverdragon364

I'll read this as soon as I have the time but here's the notes for these chapters (any typos are my own) --

"Yeah," said Peril. "If you want to know everything, I burned up my twin in our egg. I sucked all the fire out of him and scorched him to a crisp." She shrugged, but there was a wobbliness to her voice.
Tui: Here's another behind-the-scenes secret some of you might have heard me talk about before: When I was first planning out this series, my original plan was to have EIGHT dragonets in the prophecy - the five you know plus an IceWing and a pair of SkyWing twins. The twins would have been Peril, with too much fire, and her brother, who had no fire (so in that version he survived, although he was a pretty sad little dragon.) I quickly realized that would be unmanageable to keep track of, so I trimmed it down to five. But I loved the idea of Peril...I just really wanted to write about a dragon who has this very dragon-sounding problem of firescales, and what it would be like to grow up that dangerous. It's too bad for the character, though - she would have been much better off with Clay and the others than she was with Queen Scarlet!

"I want to be who I want to be, not who I have to be."
Tui: If I had to pick a sentence from book one to sum up the series, this might be it.

Clay wondered if a normal NightWing, raised around other NightWings, would already have his powers by now.
Tui: This is something I was really interested in - how does it change a young dragon to grow up far away from their own tribe and natural environment? In Starflight's case, he'd go looking for the answers in his scrolls...but NightWings are so deliberately mysterious that he won't be able to find out anything that way. And the NightWings themselves thought he'd turn out a certain way because ALL NightWings are like that - again, they were assuming certain qualities (like confidence, or one might say arrogance) were genetic, when in fact they're societal.

"Is that a good thing?" Clay asked. "Or a bad thing? I've never been a prisoner before. Unless, technically, maybe I sort of was, but not like this. This is a lot....windier. Plus there's the queen, that's new. Does she normally meet with prisoners? Maybe right before letting them go?"
Tui: This is the same way Clay tried to deal with Kestrel, talking too much so she'd be distracted and maybe stop attacking him...it's kind of a nervous reaction and a defense mechanism for him!

Oops, *Clay thought.* Should I have done that? *He hadn't struggled with the guards at all.*
Tui: Tsunami is a natural warrior; Clay is not (like I said before, he's more of a peacemaker and a protector) - that is, even though he's good at fighting, it's not his first (or second or third) reaction to problems, and he'd probably rather avoid it if he can.

On one wall hung a full-length portrait of Queen Scarlet, staring majestically down her nose.
Tui: Yikes - can you imagine if they only thing in your room was an enormous picture of your mom, frowning at

you? (I mean, Scarlet isn't Peril's mom, but she's the closest thing to it that Peril's ever had.)

Perhaps Queen Scarlet didn't completely trust the hold she had on Peril.
Tui: Trust is really not a big part of Scarlet's personality.

When Clay looked more closely, he saw a design of talon prints, inlaid with gold, running through the stone under his talons. Gold veins were carved into the walls as well, some of them branching into flames or tracing shapes like clouds in the rock.
Tui: I've always found scene descriptions to be probably the hardest part of writing (I also usually find them the most boring part of reading!)...but what I like about writing about dragons is that I'm not limited to trees and mountains. These dragons can have castles and dungeons and decorate everything with treasure and precious stones, which I think helps make the background more visually interesting and unexpected. (Plus you can learn a lot about a kingdom and a queen from how her castle is decorated and organized - Scarlet, for instance, is very wealthy and likes to show that off, to prove how no one would dare steal from her. Burn, on the other hand, lives in a stronghold surrounded by thick walls...which is hilarious because dragons can fly right over walls, so what are those supposed to defend against? The answer: humans, like the ones who killed her mom. Or in Queen Coral's palace, which you see in book two, what she does with thrones and the council level and how those are all bedazzled says a lot about her and who she thinks is important to her.)

Everyone seemed either very busy or as if they were trying to look very busy.
Tui: In case Scarlet spots them and wants to know what they're doing...

He'd always kind of imagined that she [Kestrel] had been kicked out [of the SkyWing kingdom] for being too grouchy.
Tui: That's the kind of queen I would be! You - what are you frowning about? Stop grumbling! I hereby banish you until you cheer up! You know you want to live in my kingdom!

The gold tracery in the rocks and floor went over the top in here, as if a giant dragon had stumbled around the room vomiting gold all over the place.
Tui: See, now this is the kind of scene descriptions I DO like to write!

Scarlet arched her ruby-encrusted eyebrows
Tui: Here's a good question: can you really say dragons have "eyebrows"? Obviously I think so, but I can see why some people would be like, "no, eyebrows are made up of hair! Dragons don't have any hair!" Which is true, but I figure they still have ridges over their eyes which can move up and down expressively...don't you think? Eyebrows are so USEFUL for conveying skepticism, disapproval, and snark...I just felt like these dragons had to have them, and I figured you guys were smart enough to figure out what I meant!

Could they have done something else instead of attacking her [Scarlet]? Would everything be different now if they'd found a peaceful way out?
Tui: It's a good point...and something for these dragonets to think about.

"It's quite horrifying - full of two-headed lizards and seven-toed dragons and stuffed scavengers with the palest skin you ever saw."
Tui: I was thinking of two things here...the Ripley's Believe Ir or Not Odditorium in Hollywood and this art exhibit I once saw at MassMOCA in North Adams, which had all these WEIRD things in jars suspended from the ceiling and lit up with blue light. It was really cool and very unsettling, and I thought it would be fascinating to have a queen who collects this kind of thing, especially so we could eventually get to a room like that (book five, Burn's weirdling tower.)

"RainWings are naturally lazy creatures," Queen Scarlet said. "Hadn't you noticed? But then, MudWings aren't known for their brains."
Tui: Just laying out all the stereotypes, thanks, Queen Scarlet. Of course, believing the stereotypes instead of actually seeing the dragons in front of her is her first mistake...

☆ 2

***Clever,* *A Very Clevery Guy* ❤❤❤**
[exits, pursued by a bear]
bringing you cool good posts: Dec. 2014 - March 2019
appreciating and supporting you: today - forever!!!!

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phoenixdragon1690

It's kind of hilarious how Tui and I keep pointing out the same things.

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proudpeacemaker44

This is great!

How do you analyze everything like that?

~~I'd probably end up getting lost in the story...~~

0

~ *Joy* ~
She/Her

A Forum Joy Spreader | Alt | Helping Hand | Dreamer | FanWing

"Ⓑⓔ ⓐ rainbow ⓘⓝ ⓢⓞⓜⓔⓞⓝⓔ ⓔⓛⓢⓔ'ⓢ ⓒⓛⓞⓤⓓ."

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fairydragon1798

You're really good at this!

And it's true, you and Tui pointed out a lot of the same things.

Also, if no one has challenged Scarlet in that long, doesn't it mean Peril hasn't seen anyone challenge her (so far...)?

Could it be that it's *because* of Peril?

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~Fairydragon~
She/Her

We *will* never *be forgotten*
for we've all played our parts
and if the memories are erased
they'll still be in our hearts

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phoenixdragon1690

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Oh yeah, whenever I'm copying down the annotations I tend to think "hey, didn't I already write these down somewhere?" because Tui's observations sound so familiar...but nope, it's just Oncilla's analysis ringing in my head.

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moonsteel33

I want to analyze my own books the way you analyze these
Heck, forget that, I want to* build *my stories the way you analyze!

0

Sanetra

11562+ stars - Apr 2017 - Mar 2019

Life is the greatest gift. You've all helped shape mine. I can never thank you all enough. It's been so good.

Amigos
*eureka*DarkseaBearBlackberryVertigoLector*Gulfy*Caleo*Zodiak*TS
...I'm with you to the end

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I have no idea how you'd do that. My writing process for stories is totally different than my writing process for these rereads. XD

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moonsteel33

XD I'd take each chapter and look at it as
Summary of the chapter?
Best quote?
Character building?
World building?
Cultural influences?
Communication?
Comparisons to later books?
Personal commentary?
and in that way see how it adds to the...aesthetic/aura/mystique of the world, characters, and storyline. :P

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Ah, that makes sense. I can see how that might be useful.

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moonsteel33

Especially for my story which has like eight books in the first series and each book is about 500/600 pages and I need to keep track of everything XD

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phoenixdragon1690

le poke

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